



**NE Section Council**

- President:**  
Lance Schutte
- Incoming President:**  
Jack Arterburn
- Past President:**  
Mitch Stephenson
- Council Members:**  
Brad Schick  
Ben Beckman
- Secretary-Treasurer:**  
Angie Peterson
- Newsletter Editor:**  
Laura Rubeck

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# Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



## Message from the President Lance Schutte

I was asked by the Director of the United States Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) to compose a newsletter article about the very localized drought that we are experiencing. This process allowed me to really dive into the statistics and gave me some perspective on our situation.

Currently, we are nearly seven inches short from the 30-year average during the January through July time period. Therefore, we should have seen close to nineteen inches of precipitation, but we have received just short of twelve. Additionally, we have received less precipitation in 2020 during the January through July time period than what we saw during the same time period in 2012. Because of the localized drought our cool season pastures are in a drought induced dormancy and I am not counting on additional grazing from those. We have just finished up with grazing all of our warm season pastures, and they are not recovering quickly enough to continue grazing. It would be easy for some-

one to lay down and give up in this situation, start feeding every cow and minimize the bottom line. However, our folks at the USMARC have risen to the occasion. We were able to make the decision in May to re-purpose some acres meant for soybean production, and dedicate those acres to warm season annual forages, primarily brown mid-rib sorghum sudan grass. These acres are being readily grazed this August, and we anticipate having enough regrowth for fall grazing after weaning. Our livestock crews have gotten as intensive in their grazing management as I have ever seen. The average number of days spent in any pasture in 2020 has been under four, compared to nearly six days in 2019, and 15 days in 2003. This has resulted in very good residual material that will allow for quick recovery when we do get a rain, especially on our warm season pastures. Our crews have been controlling grazing events with the use of temporary electric fence, and have even gone as far as using a cordless drill and bit to drill holes into the soil for tempo-

rary posts since the soil is too hard and dry to drive them in. We have made the decision to start feeding some cattle, primarily bred yearling heifers that have higher nutritional requirements.

The perspective that I gained from this is that we have to look for the good, even in the midst of the bad. Our crews at USMARC have risen to the occasion, just like all of you and the producers that you work with have. All of us have endured droughts, fire, floods, and other countless natural disasters that can occur, and you have helped consult and guide our state's producers manage their rangelands and grass lands through it all so that those natural resources will continue to provide habitat for livestock and wildlife, filtration for water supplies, building materials, and countless other ecosystem services. In short, I want to thank each of you for your service to the Nebraska rangeland community, Nebraska livestock producers and the entire state of Nebraska. Happy Grazing!

## Historian's Report Jeff Nichols

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NEBRASKA SECTION.....

#### Five Years Ago (2015)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Browleit, President; Jon Soper, Past President; Karla

Jenkins. President Elect; Angie Petersen. Secretary-Treasurer; Shelia Luoma. Newsletter Editor; Jeff Nichols and Anthony Perliniski were Council members.

#### Ten Years Ago (2010)

The Nebraska Section officers

were Doug Whisenhunt, President; Mary Reece, Past President; Michael Croxen, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hornickel, Newsletter Editor; Curtis Talbot and Nick Simonson were Council Members (continued pg 2)

## 2020 Range Judging *Kristin Dickinson*

Due to Covid-19, all range judging contests were cancelled for 2020. Range judging will be back bigger and better in 2021.

Information regarding Range Judging in Nebraska is available on the SRM website:

<https://www.nesrm.org/RangeJudging.html>

Photos to Right: Youth from 2019 Range Judging identifying plants and learning range-based concepts



## 2020 Photography Contest *Jess Milby and Laura Rubeck*

Due to the nature of the November SRM virtual meeting, the annual photography contest fundraiser for youth travel scholarships will be postponed until next year when we can hopefully hold the annual meeting in person.

Thank you for your understanding, until then please save your pictures for next year, your talent and interest is certainly appreciated!



## Historian's Report...continued *Jeff Nichols*

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Youth Range Camp was held near Halsey June 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. The top overall camper was Johnny Ference from Ord, NE. The top First Year Camper, who placed second overall was Cale Gibbens from Atkinson.

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) contracted Ron Bolze as their coordinator.

The 2010 State Envirothon was held at the Nature and Visitors Center near Alda, NE. The Superior, NE High School team won the overall competition. The Ord, NE team won the rangeland division of the contest.

Dr. Ron Weedon, Professor at Chadron State College of physical and life sciences, passed away. Weedon helped usher incredible growth in science education opportunities at CSC.

Membership in the NE Section was 118 members.

### Twenty Years Ago (2000)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Masters, President; Lora O'Rourke, President Elect; Terry Enfield, Past President, Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Walt Schacht and Teri Edeal were Council members.

Drought was becoming a big topic of discussion for livestock producers in Nebraska. Several workshops, meetings and tours were held to discuss this issue and help producers manage through the dry conditions.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission led a task force for developing a plan to protect the black tailed prairie dog in Nebraska. An effort to keep it from being listed as a threatened species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Thirty Years Ago (1990)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Jack Maddux, President; Cort Dewing, President Elect; Sid Salzman, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary-Treasurer; Mary Raymer

(Reece), Newsletter Editor; Catherine Mills and Sheila Valasek (Luoma) were Council members.

The UNL Range Management teams competed in the undergraduate competitions at the SRM meetings in Reno, NV. The team members were Dave Burkhalter from Elwood, Justin Derner from Bartlett, Tom Koerner from Lincoln, Rex Prior from Imperial, and Mike Tinkham from Sargent. They finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the URME and 12<sup>th</sup> in the Plant ID contest.

A Rangeman's Holiday was held at the Kenneth and Elaine Fraiser Ranch in Dundy County near Max. Topics such as plant ID, grazing value, grazing response, range condition, planned grazing, fencing development, interseeding, and wildlife habitat improvements were discussed. The meeting was facilitated by SCS, Extension and SRM.



## 2020 Nebraska Section SRM Council Election **Bob Broweleit**

Nominees for 2020 are Laura Rubeck and Kyle Schumacher

### Council Member Nominee: **Laura Rubeck**

Laura Rubeck is a Soil Conservationist serving the Little Blue Natural Resources District. She grew up in the Columbus, Nebraska area where she was actively involved in 4-H. She earned a B.S. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Natural Resources and was an active member of the Society for Range Management, Wildlife Club, Range Club, and the Tractor Restoration Club. While going to school, she worked at the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory and assisted in teaching hunter education. Post-graduation she assisted conservation efforts within Prairie Plains Resource Institute and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, before assisting management in range and forage resources at the US Meat Animal Research Center.

While working full-time, she returned to UNL and earned a Grassland Management Certificate and M.S. in Agronomy with an emphasis in Rangeland Science under Drs. Walt Schacht, Jerry Volesky, Dave Wedin, and Elaine Berry; researching the effects of management intensive grazing on stream water quality.

Laura currently resides in Aurora, NE. She volunteers locally within the community at the Heartbeats Garden Club, growing organic produce for the Aurora food pantry, and hosts regular prairie tours during the summer months for visitors interested in Great Plains ecology and history. She has been an active member of the Nebraska chapter of SRM since 2010 as an undergrad and has served as the newsletter editor-in-chief since 2016 and co-manages the annual SRM photography contest funding youth scholarships. She is also a member of the Nebraska chapter of The Wildlife Society, American Society of Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Society of America, Soil Water Conservation Society, Nebraska Farm Bureau, and the Great Plains Chapter of Scientific Illustration. She also currently remains actively involved with the FEW Graduate Scholars Program.

- Her vision for SRM council would focus on encouraging youth involvement,

retaining membership from collegiate to professional levels, and developing mentorship opportunities, with special emphasis on reaching out and providing information to the public unfamiliar with the scope of rangelands.

The breadth of land management expertise held within the members of SRM is exceptional. I am humbled, excited, and would like to thank all the council members for considering me to serve as a member of the Nebraska Section Council.



**WE WANT YOU!**

### On the Nebraska SRM Section Council board!

If you are interested in joining the Nebraska SRM Section Council board, contact Committee Chairman Bob Broweleit (308)240-0420 [bentbarc@gmail.com](mailto:bentbarc@gmail.com)

### Council Member Nominee: **Kyle Schumacher**

I obtained my bachelor's degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Fisheries & Wildlife and Grassland Ecology & Management. I then obtained my master's degree in biology at Fort Hays State University where I studied grassland bird habitat preferences at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. I am now a coordinating wildlife biologist for Northern Prairies Land Trust and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. I work with private landowners and partnering agencies to deliver habitat improvement programs for rangelands in the Verdigris Creek and Bazile Creek watersheds in northeast Nebraska. I have been a member of SRM since 2013 when I became a member of the UNL Range Club. My involvement quickly moved from getting a couple free meals of pizza as a hungry college student to obtaining a desire to learn and work in rangelands across the Great Plains.

As a student I competed in URME, plant ID,

and research presentations. While at FHSU, I worked with my lab to begin sending students and faculty from the university back to SRM's annual meeting. At the section level, I have been a member of the Nebraska and Kansas sections as my travels have unfolded. At the parent level, I have been a member of the Wildlife Habitat Committee and currently serve as chairperson for that committee. Within that role, I have been working with SRM's Board of Directors and Executive Vice President to expand relations between SRM and The Wildlife Society and to get SRM a seat at the table with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Also as a member of the Young Professionals Conclave, I am the group's liaison to the Nebraska Section and hope to continue to expand young professional involvement in Nebraska over the next few years.

I think the biggest strength of the Nebraska Section is the number of quality mentors looking to pass on their passion for Nebraska's rangelands to new members. We should continue to capitalize on this strength by finding ways to expand membership of young professionals, students, and young producers. With that, I have three goals for Nebraska Section if I were to be elected to advisory council:

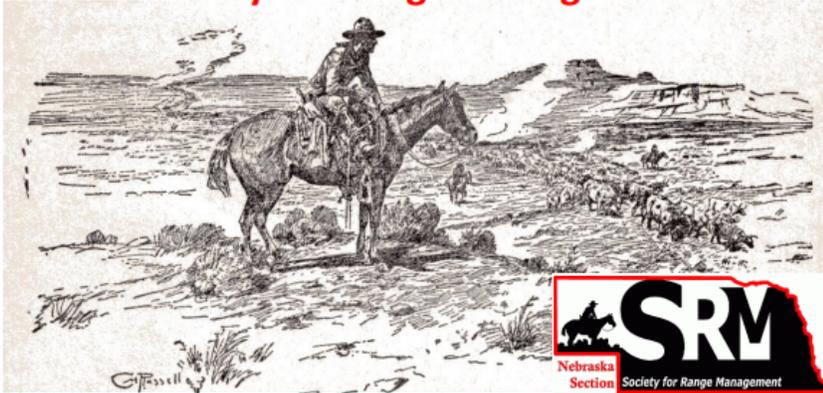
- Increase fundraising efforts and sponsorship for the Nebraska Section and the annual meeting. These funds would be used to keep meeting costs down and expand financial support for travel expenses and support other section activities through the year.
- Increase young professional membership and involvement by establishing a scholarship for travel related expenses to SRM's annual meeting, establishing a scholarship for a young producer to attend the Nebraska Section meeting, and establish an YPC liaison from the section level.
- Produce a list of policy and position statements similar to the parent society's list to increase state level influence in policy decisions and legislation that locally affect our rangelands.

With that, I would be honored to represent and serve the Nebraska Section on advisory council and thank you for your consideration.

## 2020 Virtual SRM Annual Meeting

Jack Arterburn (incoming president)

### Nebraska Section Society for Range Management



### 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting: New Technologies for Monitoring and Managing Rangelands

#### November 5th

9:30am MT—Business Meeting

11:00am MT—Awards

#### Lunch Break

1:00pm MT—Dr. Dirac Twidwell:  
Monitoring Vegetation Cover on  
Rangelands

2:00pm MT—Dr. Travis Mulliniks:  
Monitoring Animal Performance on  
Rangelands

#### November 6th

9:30am MT—Undergraduate and  
Graduate Student Presentations

#### Lunch Break

1:00pm MT—Dr. Mitchell Stephenson:  
Tools for Monitoring Grazing Behavior  
and Distribution on Rangelands

2:00pm MT—Dr. Andrew Little:  
Precision Conservation on Working  
Landscapes

Attendance is free. Register at [https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Qk](https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Qk). Contact Jack Arterburn at 308-249-3717 or [jack.arterburn@unl.edu](mailto:jack.arterburn@unl.edu) with questions.

Virtual 2020 Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting New Technologies for Monitoring and Managing Rangelands is the theme for this year's annual meeting of the Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management held virtually on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The business meeting and awards will take place on the morning of November 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30am MT. Sessions Thursday afternoon start at 1:00pm MT and feature Dr. Dirac Twidwell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Assistant Professor and Rangeland Ecologist, discussing "Monitoring Vegetation Cover on Rangelands" and a discussion about "Monitoring Animal Performance on Rangelands" presented by Dr. Travis Mulliniks, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Specialist in Range Beef Nutrition.

Undergraduate and graduate student presentations of current research projects start Friday morning at 9:30am MT. Sessions Friday afternoon start at 1:00pm MT and feature Dr. Mitchell Stephenson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Specialist in Range and Forage Management, discussing "Tools for Monitoring Grazing Behavior and Distribution on Rangelands" and Dr. Andrew Little, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Specialist in Landscape Habitat Management, discussing "Precision Conservation on Working Landscapes."

Attendance is free. Register at [https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Qk](https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Qk). Direct questions to Jack Arterburn, 308-249-3717 or [jack.arterburn@unl.edu](mailto:jack.arterburn@unl.edu).

#### Collegiate Range and Ag Clubs



2019-2020 UNL Range Club Officers

President: Asha Scheideler

Vice President: Nick Sanders

Primary Programmer: Ryley Johnson

Recruiter: Nicole Strand



2019-2020 CSU Ag Club Officers

President: Lindsey VanderMay

Vice President: Brooke Moore

Secretary/Treasurer: Myles Mendell

## Notes of Gratitude

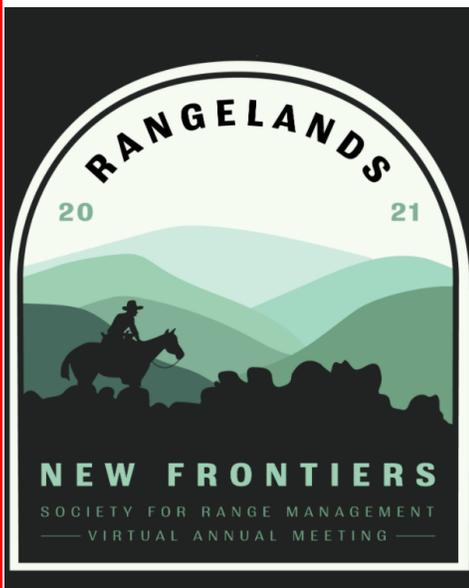
Dear Nebraska SRM Section,

I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your newsletter editor-in-chief these last five years. I have enjoyed this responsibility serving you all and am looking forward to new opportunities to support the mission of the Nebraska SRM section.

Take care,  
Laura Rubeck



THANK YOU PARTNER!

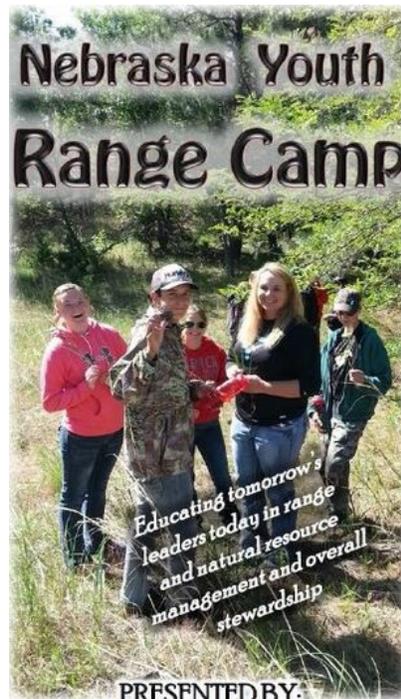


## Seeking Ranch Sponsors



### Seeking Ranch Sponsor – Nebraska Youth Range Camp

We need the Nebraska Section members help! Would you or someone you know be interested in sponsoring the Nebraska Youth Range Camp? We have three different levels of sponsorship available. If you know someone who is interested in serving as a ranch sponsor please contact Shelly Kelly at [shelly@sandhilltaskforce.com](mailto:shelly@sandhilltaskforce.com) or Sara Wahl at [sara.wahl@usda.gov](mailto:sara.wahl@usda.gov).



PRESENTED BY:



## At a Glance

### Nebraska State Section Meeting "New Technologies for Managing Rangelands" Nov 5-6, 2020

Attendance is free. Register at [https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Q](https://unl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vegnnpnXSwC4U0RXosKO8Q)

Questions? Contact Jack Arterburn, 308-249-3717 or [jack.arterburn@unl.edu](mailto:jack.arterburn@unl.edu).

### International 2021 SRM Meeting February 15-18, 2021

The SRM virtual Annual Meeting will take place: February 15-18, 2021. Committee Meetings are scheduled for the week prior, February 8-12th. The meeting will include morning plenary sessions, followed by technical sessions in one-two hour blocks throughout the day, with evening social events to cap off each day.

<http://annualmeeting2021.rangelands.org/>  
Questions?

Contact [KarenL@rangelands.org](mailto:KarenL@rangelands.org) or [kelly@wssdc.com](mailto:kelly@wssdc.com)



Check out the national YPC newsletter, available at:

[https://mcusercontent.com/80df7797b96106a4838a4978c/files/e68ae0aa-8002-4a62-b5bb-84f7396f4381/YPC\\_Fall\\_2020\\_newsletter.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/80df7797b96106a4838a4978c/files/e68ae0aa-8002-4a62-b5bb-84f7396f4381/YPC_Fall_2020_newsletter.pdf)